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Figure 6 illustrates a mortar bomb 60 leaving the barrel 12 of a mortar gun fitted with a muzzle brake 11 according to the present invention. The muzzle brake 11 includes a plurality of portholes to allow the gases to escape from the barrel 12 through the portholes instead of through the mouth of the barrel 12. The invention allows significant amount of gases to escape through the portholes before the bomb leaves the barrel muzzle. Therefore, the gas pressure at the muzzle when the bomb 60 leaves the barrel 12 will be significantly reduced, thereby reducing muzzle disturbance. Consequently, the bomb 60 will reach steady-flight very much earlier, which will increase the range and improve the accuracy of the bomb

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IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (amended) In a recoil buffering apparatus for an artillery gun having a breech assembly (15) connected to a barrel (12), the breech assembly (15) having a firing mechanism for firing a projectile (60) through an open end of the barrel (12), the improvements of the recoil buffering apparatus comprising:

a recoil buffering means integrated or otherwise secured with the barrel (12) for movement therewith during recoil of